

Better Together Community Meeting

Plumstead, Thamesmead, Abbey Wood

Plumstead Manor School, 16 October 2019, 7-9pm

Guest Panel

- Leanna Minahan - Head of Safer Spaces
- Jane Connor - Head of Public Health Development
- Inspector Sergeant – Alan Cooley

Services in attendance

- Business Engagement Team
- Children's Services
- Community Safety
- Greenwich Local Labour and Business
- Housing
- Leisure services
- Library services
- Metropolitan Police
- Neighbourhood Growth Fund Team
- Neighbourhood Watch
- NHS Greenwich CCG
- Public Health
- Universal Credit
- Waste and Street Services

Attendees: 44

Meeting notes

Item	
1	<p>The chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and introduced the panel and ward councillors. Questions were then invited from the audience.</p>
2	<p>The first question was regarding:</p> <p>The lack of accessibility for wheelchair users around the borough, for instance, there are not many Changing Places toilets that are accessible to wheelchair users that require equipment to use those spaces. The questioner also raises the point that she cannot use the toilet in the QE hospital. What are the Council doing about it?</p> <p>The Council responded: Current planning policies have already had discussions within the Council. The Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group have been working together to develop a new integrated health and wellbeing centre at Kidbrooke Village, which will have accessible facilities to reduce social inequalities. The new leisure centre at the Waterfront will have inclusive facilities.</p> <p>There are shortages of Changing Places accessible standard toilets in existing buildings so the Council is looking at how we can embed the requirement into planning policies for new buildings.</p>
3	<p>The question asked:</p> <p>Rent has doubled for the Toy Leisure Library and it is currently threatened to be closed after 46 years of running. 3,000 people from the community have signed a petition to the Council to stop the closure. What is the Council going to do? Will they create a business plan or find alternative ways to keep the service running.</p> <p>The Council responded:</p> <p>The Council is currently providing funding for the same service but to a different organisation that is based in a different area of the borough. as the service is borough-wide. The closure is due to changes in the contract. Independent organisations are responsible for their own business plans but the Toy Library can receive help from METRO GAVs to get guidance and assistance for writing bids for funding.</p> <p>Official Council Statement regarding the Toy Library</p>

	<p>“When the Greenwich Toy and Leisure Library moved to Abbey Grove, we agreed that they would pay a subsidised rent until 31 March 2019, at which point it would increase to a market rent. This is because the charity was commissioned to provide short breaks to children with disabilities on behalf of the Council until that date. Earlier this year we re-commissioned our short breaks programme to an alternative provider. This decision which was informed by feedback from children and parents and carers, and the new programme provides at least 500 more short break places than the previous one. As we’re in our tenth year of government imposed austerity we are having to make increasingly difficult decisions to cope with the massive reductions in funding, so are not in a position where we can continue to subsidise the rent on this building.”</p> <p>Useful links: METRO GAVS website</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>The question asked:</p> <p>What Council services are available to accommodate my 18-year-old autistic, hyperactive son? The Council stated that they will take the name and address of the questioner in order to provide them details of organisations that will accommodate her child’s needs.</p> <p>Link to Greenwich Families Information Service</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>The question asked:</p> <p>What has happened to the public toilets in the borough? Half of them have closed down and there is a need for elderly residents to use toilets more when out in the public.</p> <p>The Council responded: Like the rest of the country Royal Greenwich has seen a decline in the number of public toilets as they are expensive to build and maintain and can attract anti-social behaviour. However, Plumstead Library will have new public toilets when it opens next year.</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>The question asked:</p> <p>I am concerned about the proposed changes to the Telecare Services. Healthcare service workers (Telecare) are expected to be on call for vulnerable patients late at night, for instance 1am calls to visit a vulnerable person in urgent need. Workers are expected to go to their shifts alone and this puts their safety at risk. How can the Council contribute to reducing safety risks for healthcare workers?</p>

	<p>The Council responded:</p> <p>The Public Health will discuss and assess the risk assessment. Social care and the Clinical Commission have partnered up to discuss better integration between the services.</p> <p>Official Council Statement regarding proposed changes to the Telecare Service</p> <p>“The five-star Telecare service we are able to deliver across Royal Greenwich is reliant on our valued workforce and their contributions to maintaining the service is greatly appreciated. “Because of government austerity we have to review how the service is run. However, we would like to clarify there are no immediate changes taking place, we have not changed the shift times and are discussing any proposed changes with the Telecare Association. “We remain open for staff and union discussions, as we are determined to maintain this five-star Telecare service, so that vulnerable members of our community receive the support they need in their homes.”</p>
7	<p>The question asked:</p> <p>A resident of Lakedale Road is concerned about the speed limits in the area because the road is near a park where young children play.</p> <p>The Council responded:</p> <p>We’re moving to introduce 20mph limits to as many roads across the borough as possible as people are less likely to be killed by drivers travelling at that lower speed. As a local authority, it is difficult to implement enforcement to reduce speeding as this is the responsibility of the Police. Some London Councils are lobbying to gain powers to enforce speeding limits.</p> <p>Clarification:</p> <p>Every year we conduct a borough-wide review of recent collisions to identify the local safety schemes programme for the next financial year. Schemes brought forward under this initiative are prioritised based on the history of road traffic collisions.</p> <p>Should the next review identify Lakedale Road as a high priority for treatment, proposals would be brought forward for consultation with the affected residents. Thereafter they would be implemented, subject to the outcome of consultation and the available funding.</p> <p>Speeding on residential roads is a major concern to the Royal Borough. Unfortunately, the Council does not have the legal powers to take enforcement action against speeding motorists, within the</p>

	<p>Royal Borough this is the responsibility of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). You may, therefore, wish to raise this with your local police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) and ask that they consider arranging enforcement on your road. Alternatively, you can take part in Community Roadwatch and to suggest a residential area where there are community concerns around speeding. Please contact CommunityRoadwatch@met.police.uk stating the borough you live in and your enquiry will be forwarded to your local Met Safer Transport Team, who will be in touch.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>The questions asked:</p> <p>How can we enhance old facilities for local communities, particularly for young people?</p> <p>In regard to the Woolwich Heritage Fund, how is it going to be distributed around the community?</p> <p>The 20% discount on purchasing houses in the borough is not enough to ensure young people can purchase houses in their local communities. What is the Council doing to make sure this demographic is not excluded from the housing market?</p> <p>What opportunities are there for young people who wish to start their own businesses?</p> <p>Why are there two betting shops by Glyndon Community Centre? What are the Council doing to stop new betting shops from opening?</p> <p>The Council responded:</p> <p>The Council has insufficient powers to refuse licensing betting shops. National policies see that betting shops are considered financial institutions. Recent legislation in the UK, that restricts the number of fixed-odds betting terminals per shop will prevent more shops from opening and will force current shops to close down as they become less profitable.</p> <p>Regarding the housing question, the Council is building 750 new homes that will be available at 40 to 50%.</p> <p>GLLaB is available for business ideas and providing advice and guidance.</p>

	<p>Useful links: How GLLaB can help you find work Sign up to receive Council's business e-newsletter</p>
9	<p>A suggestion stated:</p> <p>An anti-speeding campaign for the whole borough.</p> <p>The Council responded:</p> <p>Residents have the right to liaise with their Ward Councillors to start local campaigns. Transport police are open for residents to approach them for ideas and collaboration.</p>
10	<p>The question asked:</p> <p>What are the grammar school prospects in the borough? Where can young people go to get good quality secondary education in the borough?</p> <p>The Council responded:</p> <p>You happen to be sat in a very good secondary school – Plumstead Manor. Greenwich does not have a grammar school system like Bexley and grammar school systems do not necessarily produce better results. There is more information about school statuses online. If you are concerned about your child's transition to secondary school please speak to your local ward councillor.</p> <p>Useful links: Applying for a secondary school place</p>
11	<p>The question asked:</p> <p>What support can the Council give to support the Abbey Wood Tennis Club as we were forced to relocate from Bostall Gardens as there is no toilet provision?</p> <p>The council responded:</p> <p>We are looking for residents to start an Abbey Wood Ward Friends of the Park group who would be able to apply for funding. Any concerns about the Abbey Wood ward can be discussed through the Abbey Wood councillors Facebook page.</p>

	Useful links: Apply for funding through the Council's Neighbourhood Growth Fund
12	The Q and A session ends, the Chair thanked people for their questions and invited attendees to visit stalls.